

TROLLEY WAR



Trolley cars purchased by Bob Diamond sit dormant in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Diamond has shifted focus from Red Hook to Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Who'll put streetcars inside park?



Diamond stands in front of one of his vehicles in Red Hook.

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

When the city put an end to the dream of a trolley linking Red Hook to Downtown Brooklyn this year, nobody thought the borough would ever hear the clattering of trolleys again.

Now news that the planners of Brooklyn Bridge Park are considering a trolley that would take visitors around the planned waterfront development has not only sparked interest, it has started a war.

The two combatants, who each have proposed plans for a trolley line that would encircle the park and connect to surrounding neighborhoods, were briefly partners in the Red Hook trolley plan.

On one side is Bob Diamond, a Brooklyn Heights resident and transit buff who has dreamed of bringing trolleys back to Brooklyn for the past 20 years. Diamond, who says he has, over the years, put nearly \$300,000 of his own

money into the plans, came close to realizing his vision when his organization, the Brooklyn Historic Railway Association (BHRA), won city approval and public funds to lay tracks connecting Red Hook to Atlantic Avenue.

Those plans fell through and Diamond is now trying to push for a trolley around the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park that would also connect to Borough Hall in Downtown Brooklyn.

On the other side is Arthur Melnick, a former BHRA spokesman who had a falling out with Diamond and left to form the Brooklyn City Streetcar Company Inc., which has already submitted a detailed, five-page proposal to the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC), the agency formed to build the park.

But according to Diamond, that proposal is based on information, maps and plans stolen off of his computers.

"Brooklyn City Streetcar is a sham consisting of stolen documents," said Diamond, who said he fired Melnick after catching him downloading documents and printing files in the dead of night.

"We're the ones who came up with the idea way back when," said Diamond. "Basically, anything they have was stolen off our computers."

Melnick also accuses Melnick of spreading a rumor that he was dead, plotting to steal his dozen trolleys stored at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and being a "corporate trader with some murky political connections to the Brooklyn 'machine'" and to Assemblywoman Norma Mastrorocco, who heads the Kings County Democratic Committee.

Melnick, a Midwood native who met Diamond two years ago when he stumbled upon his Red Hook office while false-

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Judge rules for Gardens shelter

Rose House for battered women set to open

By Kristen Hinman
The Brooklyn Papers

A Brooklyn judge this week refused to bar a shelter for battered Asian women and children from setting up shop in a Carroll Gardens brownstone.

In an emergency hearing in Kings County Supreme Court downtown, Judge Lawrence Knipfel swiftly dismissed a request by 14 Carroll Gardens residents for an order barring the New York Asian Women's Center (NYAWC) from housing up to 20 clients in the brownstone.

The NYAWC did not need to call any witnesses in its defense before Knipfel ruled in the organization's favor Nov. 19, saying that because the building was not yet occupied, the court could not determine whether its use violated zoning regulations.

Knipfel said the court should have been the last resort for the plaintiffs, who, he said, must first take their complaint that the shelter violates zoning regulations to the city Department of Buildings. If they disagree with the Buildings Department's ruling they can appeal the decision before the city Board of Standards and Appeals, Knipfel said.

The ruling means NYAWC can begin operations at the facility, tentatively called Rose House, either in the closing days of this month or in early December as planned.

"We're really happy that the

court established that they have no legal grounds to be harassing us in this way," said Kyung Yoon, the organization's chairwoman. "We're hopeful that we can show the community that there is no basis for all the fear-mongering."

Yoon said the installation of staff and settling of families would be gradually "phased in."

City Councilman Bill DeBlasio and Assemblywoman Joan Millman, whose districts include the residence, they include the planned shelter.

applauded the ruling.

In a joint statement, the two legislators said: "We are pleased to see the court act with prudence and restraint in addressing this legal challenge. If the proposed facility is legal, and believing that the legitimate concerns of the neighborhood will be addressed, we continue to hope and urge that community residents treat the families and staff of the residence as they include the planned shelter."

See SHELTER on page 6

McMonty St

McDonald's-owned burrito shop to open in Heights

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Chipotle Mexican Grill, an upscale burrito restaurant chain owned by McDonald's, will be opening its first Brooklyn eatery on Montague Street this spring.

The Denver-based company, which boasts a "casual modern" flair and prides itself on using fresh ingredients and drug-free meats, will be taking over the former Municipal Credit Union space at 185 Montague St., between Court and Clinton streets.

"It's the perfect kind of location," said Chipotle spokeswoman Katherine Newell Smith when asked about the company's move into Brooklyn Heights. "It's a great neighborhood and a lot of people are very food savvy."

McDonald's owns 90 percent of the chain, part of the fast-food giant's ventures outside of its core hamburger operations, which include Boston Market and Donatos Pizza. But Chipotle, which has earned kudos from food critics

See MCMONTY on page 6

Ikea ready to hire

Employment policy already in place

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Ikea may still be a year or more away from winning city approval to build a Red Hook store, but that hasn't stopped the Swedish furniture manufacturer from announcing its hiring policy to fill the approximately 600 jobs they expect the store to create.

In letters sent to more than 1,000 residents, community groups, civic leaders and news outlets, Ikea announced its "one-of-a-kind, Red Hook-specific" policy for new hires, which focuses on neighborhood residents.

As part of that plan, Ikea has committed to only accept applications at the Red Hook site — at Columbia and Van Brunt streets — and to open up the hiring process to residents in the 11231 ZIP code two weeks before the general public. The company has also said it will host job fairs to prepare Red Hook residents to apply.

While Ikea supporters touted the stated hiring policy this week, claiming it would ensure much-needed jobs for neighborhood residents, opponents — most of who oppose the store based on projected traffic congestion — accused Ikea of using the policy to bolster support and make the store's opening appear imminent.

John McGerrick, co-chair of the Red Hook Civic Association and a vocal opponent of Ikea, said that to the waterfront neighborhood, the announcement of the hiring policy.

"This premature announcement by Ikea only highlights the fact that residents of Red Hook and surrounding communities are not guaranteed jobs, they are only guaranteed pollution and gridlock and traffic if the store were to ever win government approval," McGerrick said.

On the other side, Dorothy Shields, president of the Red Hook Houses East Tenants Association, who has lived in the neighborhood for 47 years, said she can't wait for Ikea to come.

"I think that it's great and I'm in favor of it all the way," Shields said.

"Jobs are one of the things we really need to have in Red Hook. Once upon a time we had nothing but employment and so many of the businesses have moved out."

Ikea is proposing to build a \$70 million, 346,000-square-foot store on the 22-acre former New York Shipyard, between Dwight and Columbia streets along the Erie Basin. The company would also build 1,400 parking spaces and Ikea has proposed running ferry service to the store from downtown Manhattan.

The store would create 500 to 600 part- and full-time jobs, that pay "competitive wages," according to Ikea real estate manager Patrick Smith.

"There are not a lot of qualifications necessary. We don't necessarily look for retail experience. We're basically looking for people who will show up and have a good attitude," Smith said.

Employees working 20 or more hours a week are eligible for full medical and dental coverage as well as education reimbursement for up to two courses per semester, he said.

As for the Red Hook hiring policy, Smith said, noting that the company has been working with the community for more than a year.

"We're not guaranteeing jobs, we're just making sure

See IKEA on page 6

'Davis Post Office' awaits Bush OK

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Legislation seeking to rename a Crown Heights post office for murdered City Councilman James Davis has passed both houses of Congress and awaits the president's signature.

"Naming a post office after him will be a lasting tribute to all of his hard work for the community that he loved so much," said Rep. Ed Towns, who introduced the bill in the House of Representatives. "While we still have a heavy heart for losing such a good friend, the James E. Davis Post Office can help to celebrate his life."

Just a week after Davis was assassinated inside City Hall in July, Sen. Charles Schumer gathered outside the Lefferts Place Post Office to announce his plan to introduce a bill to rename the building. The post office at 315 Empire Blvd., is in the district Davis served and just around the corner from his mother's home.

That bill was passed by the Senate last month and now that it has been approved by both houses it is expected to be signed into law by President George Bush.

"We're very appreciative and honored that they would do that,"

said Geoffrey Davis, brother of the former councilman, who earlier this month lost a bid to replace him in the council.

Working Families Party candidate Letitia James was elected to the seat, which includes portions of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Prospect Heights, Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

In addition to the post office, a number of Davis memorials are being considered including the dedication of a wing at John Jay College, the re-naming of PS 161 on Crown Street and the co-naming of Nostrand Avenue at Atlantic Avenue to Eastern Parkway.

Geoffrey Davis is also pushing to

establish a citywide James Davis Progressive Democratic Club.

In September, the Brooklyn Academy of Music dedicated a new arts and cultural center at 80 Hanson Place in honor of Davis.

Davis, 41, a former police officer was finishing his first term representing the 35th Councilmanic District when he was shot to death by Otaniel Askew on July 23, Askew, who had accompanied Davis to City Hall, was killed by a police officer assigned to City Hall.

Askew had mounted a campaign to unseat Davis in last September's primary but dropped out just before the deadline for filing nominating petitions.



Turkey time

Borough President Marty Markowitz hands out Thanksgiving turkey to William Bowie of St. Paul's Disciple Church Monday outside Borough Hall. More than 700 turkeys, donated by Health Plus, Fulton Street Mall Association and the Korean-American Brooklyn Association were handed to community groups.

Deadly stabbing at Fulton Mall

The Brooklyn Papers

A dispute among a group of men in Downtown Brooklyn turned deadly Tuesday afternoon, leaving one young man dead from stab wounds.

The fight broke out on Livingston Street at 1:30 pm and continued on to Flatbush Avenue and Nevins Street where

police found the 19-year-old victim with multiple stab wounds to his back in front of the Fulton Grill restaurant. Two unidentified suspects were spotted fleeing the scene.

The victim, Cody Knox, of Williamsburg, ran around the corner onto Fulton Mall where he collapsed in front of the Burger King.

Minutes after the stabbing, police cordoned off the area in front of both restaurants, where fresh blood stains marked the sidewalk. Detectives combed the area interviewing witnesses and were still piecing together the investigation Tuesday night.

A man who described himself as the manager of Universal Shoes, next door to Fulton Grill, told The Brooklyn Papers he

saw a boy running with a jacket that had been slashed across the back. He was being chased by a group of five men, the store manager said.

The victim was taken to Brooklyn Hospital Center where he was pronounced dead at 1:45 pm, according to Deputy Inspector Christopher Rising, commanding officer of the 84th Precinct.

— Deborah Kolben

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Independence buys S.I. Bank

The Associated Press

Brooklyn-based Independence Community Bank Corp. agreed to acquire Staten Island Bancorp Inc. for \$1.5 billion in stock and cash in a move to expand in the competitive New York and New Jersey banking market.

Under the agreement, expected to close in the spring, Independence will pay \$369

million in cash plus about 29 million shares for Staten Island Bancorp.

The offer values each Staten Island Bancorp share at about 0.62 of an Independence share, or \$23.88, based on Independence's Friday closing stock price of \$38.32.

That is a premium of 19 percent to Friday's closing price for Staten Island Bancorp shares of \$20.08, and a 16 percent premium to Mon-

day's closing price of \$20.58.

News of the deal sent shares of the acquired company, which is based in Staten Island, up \$2.15, or 10.4 percent, to \$22.73 in Tuesday morning trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Shares of Independence Community Bank fell \$2.04, or 5.3 percent, to \$36.67 on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

The deal will create a combined banking company with

assets of about \$17 billion and 116 full-service branches.

Independence expects the merged company to have a loan portfolio of about \$9 billion, with 60 percent derived from commercial loans, plus a deposit base of about \$9 billion.

The merged bank will have 51 branches in New Jersey, plus additional locations in Staten Island and Brooklyn. The branches of the com-

bined bank on Staten Island will operate under the S.I. Bank & Trust name as a unit of Independence.

Independence Community Bank expects the deal to add more than 3 percent to its an-

ticipated 2004 earnings per share, and 8 percent to projected 2005 earnings.

For 2002, Independence earned \$2.24 a share. Staten Island Bancorp posted net income of \$1.72 a share.

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The new Brooklyn Motor Inn on Hamilton Avenue near the Battery Tunnel.

There's a new hotel in Brooklyn ... and it's not the Marriott.

The Brooklyn Motor Inn, located near the toll plaza of the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, opened last week at 140 Hamilton Ave. near Woodhull Street in Red Hook.

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Rooms are small but comfortably and attractively appointed, renting for \$110 per night plus tax.

Security is a feature that manager Sal Farone is proud of. Surveillance cameras are aimed in all public areas at all times, and no one but the guests themselves are allowed

up to the rooms. All food deliveries must be picked up from the lobby.

In addition to the 25 indoor and four outdoor parking spaces, Van Brunt Street, along the rear of the hotel, is available for parking daily after 5 p.m.

Farone expects business to come from many different quarters. Construction companies with crews doing work locally are housing their workers at the motor inn, and they are already accommodating overflow from the Marriott in Downtown Brooklyn and the Best Western (formerly Comfort Inn) in Bay Ridge. Visiting sports teams and performance staff for venues like BAM, and Farone's connections with the transportation and cruise industries, will likely bring additional guests.

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- Uptown 5 trains will run on the 2 line from Chambers St. to 149 St.
- There will be no 3 trains between New Lots Ave. and Times Square.

- To get to Manhattan, take the 2 or 4 train to Bowling Green. Transfer to the 5 train, which will make uptown 2, 3 stops after leaving Bowling Green.

- There will be no uptown service at the Hoyt St., Clark St., Wall St., Fulton St. or Park Place stations. For travel alternatives, pick up a take-one at your station.

- Downtown 2 and 5 trains will run normally.

Every week, look for our Weekend Service Changes posters located near the station booth or check our website at www.mta.info for more information.

This work is part of New York City Transit's ongoing effort to upgrade and maintain the subway system. We're sorry for any inconvenience.



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Violent Baltic St. burgle

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A Baltic Street burglary turned violent when a pair of thugs looking for cash busted into an elderly couple's apartment just before 10 pm on Nov. 18.

The two men knocked on the door of the apartment between Third and Fourth avenues and said they were looking for cigarettes. When the wife, 65, opened the door, the men forced their way in and roughed up the woman and her husband before handcuffing the two together.

The thugs demanded \$29,000 in cash but then fled when they heard police sirens coming down the street.

When the couple's 26-year-old grandson ran after the attackers he was slashed with a razor outside the building.

The victim was taken to New York Methodist Hospital. A 36-year-old man was arrested in the attack.

POLICE BLOTTER

Grocery grab

A woman had her fanny pack stolen from off her shoulder as she shopped at a supermarket on Seventh Avenue at Carroll Street at 6:30 pm on Nov. 15.

The thief later used the victim's credit card to rack up a \$277 bill at the grocery store before moving over to charge \$79 at a car rental store.

In addition to the credit card, the suspect made off with \$180, a college ID and gym membership card.

Change locks

A mugger stole a woman's wallet and keys at 10 am on Nov. 18.

The victim, 22, was walking to work along Fourth Avenue and 10th Street when she was

approached by a man and felt something on her back.

The suspect reached his hand into the victim's purse where he fished out \$80 and keys to both the woman's house and the store where she worked, police said.

Walk-in robber

A woman ambled into a psychologist's office on Garfield Place and Sixth Avenue and requested an appointment just after noon on Nov. 20.

The therapist told the woman she would need an appointment and passed her a pad of paper to write down all of her information.

But instead of scribbling her name and address, the suspect grabbed the therapist's purse and made off with \$40, credit cards and the woman's car keys, police said.

Cars bagged

It wasn't a good night for air bags.

Cars throughout Park Slope had their windows smashed and air bags pilfered some time between the night of Nov. 19 and early the next day.

A woman parked her car on Prospect Park West between First and Second streets at 6:30 pm on Nov. 19.

When she returned the next morning at 7:40 am she found the rear driver-side window of her black Honda busted and both air bags missing.

It was a similar story for a man who parked his car at Second Street near Eighth Avenue at 3 pm that same day.

The man returned to fetch his Ford Focus at 8:42 am the next day to find the driver-side window was busted and both air bags missing.

Wires under the hood had also been tampered with, police said.

Another woman returned to her car on First Street between Prospect Park West and Eighth Street at 8 am on Nov. 20 to find the driver-side window smashed to bits and the air bags missing.

It was the same story for a woman who parked her Ford Focus on Eighth Street between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West at 12:01 am on Nov. 20. When she returned at 7 am, the driver-side window was missing along with two air bags.

Gone missing
A woman parked her car at President Street and Sixth Avenue at 7 pm on Nov. 11.

But when she returned to the spot six days later she discovered the car was not there.

The 22-year-old victim reported her silver 1987 Saab missing, police said.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF limited liability company (LLC), Name: Shape Consulting, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 10/17/03. Office location: Kings County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whose process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Karen Pryor, 355 E. 49th St., Suite 18, Brooklyn, NY 11203. Purpose: any lawful purpose. PS-6-02

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CB2 Tubman voter calls colleagues 'duplicitous'

To the editor:

The community board spoke, and it spoke volumes. As a member of the Traffic and Transportation committee, I have witnessed the evolving rationale against the re-naming of Fulton Street to Harriet Tubman that transpired over the past two years.

When the second application for re-naming was brought before the committee, the reason to the application was immediate and misleading. Reasons presented against re-naming included: 1) the City Council has a moratorium on street re-naming; 2) the post office frowns on re-naming because it is too confusing for employees; and 3) affected businesses would have to spend money to change their envelopes, letterhead, etc.

All of these excuses were quickly invalidated. Arguments against re-naming were then redirected to whether Harriet Tubman ever stepped foot in Brooklyn and, if so, where in Brooklyn. Committee members presented their own set of facts to support their respective position. The guests did the same.

The final argument against re-naming focused on the dishonor re-naming would bring upon Robert Fulton. There are many aspects of this re-naming initiative that were disturbing. Some community board members complained of the "style" of the presenters/applauders over the "substance" of the request. The duplicitous nature of some committee members is appalling. To vote in favor of re-naming at the committee level and then to turn around and vote to oppose at the full board represents cowardice, at a minimum.

That so many African-American board members saw fit to vote against re-naming is a clear example of how we, as a community still have a way to go before we can overcome our own self-doubts. This is so sad. How do we become progressive change-agents for acceptance within our own community?

State Sen. Velmanette Montgomery provided more than enough examples to members to support Robert Fulton. Fulton is honored in numerous ways and in many locations. Re-naming Fulton Street to Harriet Tubman does not remove or call into question any of his accomplishments.

Would re-naming be as resisted if the request was to re-name Fulton Street to "Road to Jamaica," as the street was supposedly named before it became Fulton Street.

The vote of [CB2] to defeat this measure was indeed a setback. We must begin to embrace and meaningfully honor all of our African-American heroes in a manner that reflects the important contributions made by African-Americans. And, in a manner that does not "redline."

I look forward to the community board having another opportunity to correct this injustice. — John Deu, member, CB2 Traffic and Transportation Committee

Don't erase Fulton legacy

To the editor:

The question should not be whether Harriet Tubman is worthy of commemoration. I believe she is, especially as a

LETTERS



Harriet Tubman

symbol for the Underground Railroad, an enterprise in which Brooklyn played a noble and worthy role.

But why at the expense of the memory of Robert Fulton? Why eradicate the memory of the man who invented and implemented steamship transit? That innovation, which occurred on the East River, transformed the way people and goods moved, the way markets operated and the way commerce flowed. Coupled with the Erie Canal, steam-powered travel made New York into the economic mecca it still is today. The raw materials of the Midwest came to New York, were processed into saleable goods, and then shipped globally; all thanks to Fulton's creation.

I fear that an all too pervasive historical myopia, which allows the past to be seen only in the light of the issues of today, has removed this great innovator from the forefront of the American pantheon.

While the fight that Tubman fought is still on-going, Fulton's battle was won long ago, and it is so basic to our way of life that it is easy to overlook — it is the triumph of technology and progress, of forward-thinking minds, of those who dared to go beyond the horizon, over those with a reactionary and parochial world view. In a sense, Robert Fulton's success both foreshadowed and enables the triumph of the industrial North over the agrarian South, exactly the victory Tubman strove for.

She should be remembered; it is shameful that she is not on Brooklyn's map. But find some other road — Fulton Street, as an artery of transit for goods and people, exemplifies so well what Fulton achieved. It should keep its name.

— Robert Withernax, Prospect Heights

Time to honor the slaves

To the editor:

What a shame to allow ourselves to be divided by Fulton versus Tubman. There is much precedent for dual-naming streets in NYC. Usage will rule which one sticks. Neighborhoods change, and people's choices do, too.

One example: I grew up in Long Island City, Queens, as did my father. He continued to call many of the avenues there by name, long after they were changed to numbers. Until a few years ago the subway stops were listed by both name and number, and a few stores still carried an avenue name: the

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Washington Avenue Deli, etc. Yes, many slaveholders' names are on Brooklyn streets, even famous ones like Jefferson. It is certainly well past time to honor important slaves, and former slaves. May I recommend the one my niece was named after: Sojourner Truth?

We should all be so lucky to live on Truth Place!

— Paul Sheridan, Prospect Heights

Why not 'Tubman Park'?

To the editor:

This contention over the Fulton street re-naming does little if anything to lead the memory of the slaves who contributed greatly through their work — and in many cases their lives — to the development of Kings County, the City of New York and ultimately, this country.

An appropriate monument located in a beautiful park would serve their memories in a proper manner. The naming of the park for Tubman might also be supported. The park and the monument could also support a facility that would tell not only the negative aspects of slavery but also the contribution of slaves and their sons and daughters to

this city, state and country. Such a project would be worthy of the memory of these Americans, who have not been properly memorialized.

There could be a proper memorial to the many blacks who have served their country from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I & II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War and the current conflict in Iraq. The monument could serve to memorialize the many black firefighters and police officers who have fallen in the line of duty. This could serve as a positive statement and inspiration to the current black youth to go and do likewise.

Denouncing the names of Brooklyn families who owned slaves, in my opinion does nothing to positively inspire the youth of this county. Re-naming a street likewise does little to inspire the youth who need positive role models. The re-naming would be costly and disruptive to the black businesses, make the line the street for several miles and who have been identified with the location for years.

I believe that there are better ways of honoring Harriet Tubman.

— Vincent J. Fawcett, Carroll Gardens

Tubman deserves street

To the editor:

Fulton Street in Brooklyn, by all means, should be re-named in Harriet Tubman's honor, especially after what she did to make herself the hero she is. And besides, it will bring more light out to the street and neighborhood in general. Let's do it!

— Chris Raso Jr., Brooklyn Heights

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Synagogue expands

By Paulanne Simmons
For the Brooklyn Papers

The Kane Street Synagogue, the second-oldest Jewish house of prayer in Brooklyn, is expanding its community center, which it purchased along with the sanctuary 101 years ago.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Nov. 18 on Kane Street between Court and Clinton streets in Cobble Hill.

The addition, which includes adding a third floor to the community center and connecting the building to the sanctuary, was designed by Tesoro Architects. Their plan won the approval of the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission because of its adherence to the architectural features of the original Romanesque Revival design of both structures and the harmonious way the new design elements were introduced.

The new construction, to be called the Sol and Lillian Goldman Educational Center, will preserve and expand the home of the congregation's religious, educational and community facilities.

The Goldmans were long-time members of the congregation (they were second-generation members, and their daughter, Amy, is a current member), and it was through Lillian Goldman's gift of \$1 million before she died a year ago that much of the work was accomplished. The congregation contributed another \$2 million.

"We've been thinking about it since 1995," said Judith Greenwald, a past president of the congregation and co-chair of the renewal campaign committee. "The community building was built in 1855 by the Middle Reformed Protestant Dutch Church and was sold in 1887 to the Salvation Army, which used them as a barracks."

Five months later, however, a community organization forced the Salvation Army to move, and the German Evangelical Lutheran Church

bought the buildings, which it used for 15 years until selling them to Congregation Baitz Israel. In 1905, three years after acquiring the building, the congregation merged with Talmud Torah Anshei Etnes.

The Kane Street Synagogue has a membership of 250, mostly from Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Boerum Hill, Park Slope and Brooklyn Heights.

Greenwald said the congregation hopes to have the construction finished by 2004 so that by 2006 "we will be celebrating our 150th anniversary in our new beautifully renovated building."



Work has begun on the expansion of the Kane Street Synagogue on Kane Street in Cobble Hill.



Cops honored

Police officer honorees Michael Almonte (holding plaque) and Elvin Ramos are flanked by Deputy Inspector Christopher Rising and 84th Precinct Community Council President Leslie Lewis during the council's "Cop of the Month" ceremonies at 30 Washington St. last week.

9-11 exhibit focuses on landfill recovery

By Deepthi Hajela
Associated Press

For hour after hour, day after day, month after month, they kept at it.

From the original mountains of debris down to the last quarter-inch, workers at the Fresh Kills landfill sifted through 1.8 tons from the decimated World Trade Center over 10 months, looking to recover whatever they could.

Some of what they found, from car parts to building remnants, makes up an exhibit chronicling the massive effort. "Recovery: The World Trade Center Recovery Operation at Fresh Kills" opened at the New York Historical Society in Manhattan on Tuesday and runs through March 21.

The exhibit — featuring more than 50 objects and 65 photographs — is part of "History Responds," the institution's program that collects historical materials relating to the 9-11 attacks.

The work at Fresh Kills, miles from Ground Zero and closed to the general public, is an important part of the 9-11 story that most people don't know about, organizers said. "I don't think people have a good sense of the extraordinary lengths to which every single worker there went to find human remains, personal property, anything to bring some comfort to the families who lost people on Sept. 11," said Amy Weinstein, assistant curator at the Historical Society.

"It's a glimpse of something that very few people see," said Mark Schaming, director of exhibitions for the New York State Museum, which put the exhibit together.

"It's a remarkable thing, the extent that they went to. ... They sorted things down to the size of a dime."

The items in the show range from a paperweight found during the sifting process to vehicle parts and the equipment, like rakes and a bucket, used to do the searching.

There are doors from a fire engine and the trunk lid from a destroyed police car; remnants of elevator floor numbers and a beam from the twin towers.

There are pieces of fuselage and a seat belt from the airplanes that crashed into the buildings. There's also a slew of small items, like keys, found in the rubble.

The photographs record the daily activities at the site, from the huge piles that had to be sorted, to images of those who worked there, spending hours at conveyor belts watching for the smallest fragment of something vital to come by.

Closed by the city in March 2001, Fresh Kills was reopened a day after 9-11. The landfill was the last stop for debris handled by trucks and barges to be sifted one last time for remains, personal property and criminal evidence.

At the height of the operation, 7,000 tons of material were processed each day as workers in respirators manned conveyor belts, poised to stop the flow when they spotted a bone fragment or other remains. More than 54,000 pieces of personal property, including rings, watches, wallets and ID cards, were found. Of the nearly 20,000 human remains recovered from

the twisted ruins, more than 1,400 were found at the landfill, the city medical examiner's office has said.

"I hope that the families see this, that they understand the amount of detail and concern that was put forth to recover their loved ones, to recover their personal property, and that's basically what the whole thing is about," said Police Inspector James Luongo, the site commander.

The show is a collaboration between the Historical Society and the New York State Museum in Albany, which has a permanent collection of artifacts related to 9-11. Many of the items in this exhibition have already been shown there, and the show will be traveling. It has already been seen in Cleveland, and is slated to go to Cleburne, Texas; Buffalo, N.Y.; and Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Brooklyn Papers

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SHELTER...

Continued from page 1
would treat any other neighbor — with civility and respect.”
The officials had declined requests to join the lawsuit against the shelter.

Wednesday's court appearance was the latest episode in a bitter, public showdown between a core group of Carroll Gardens opponents and the Manhattan-based NYAWC.

“This is just the opening round,” said Salvatore Russo, one of the plaintiffs, after the hearing ended. “Expect it to be a 15-round battle.”

The 13 other plaintiffs, not all of whom were in court, were Avvenente Hanna, Dolores Bannion, Michael Bannion, Paula Comi, Dominick Bal-

samo, Thorberg, Thomsen, Lynne Guillot, Peter Scotti, Richard Mossili, Philip Safina, Eleanor Keenen, Anna Santisi and Steven Santoro.

The group's lawyer, Stuart Klein, had argued that while the shelter is a “good and proper use” of the four-story, residentially zoned brownstone, the NYAWC did not file paperwork stating it would house a “transient” population.

Karen Hagberg, the NYAWC's attorney, said the average expected stay of four to six months for the shelter families did not comprise transience.

Also at issue was the number of families expected to occupy the brownstone's four apart-

ments. The shelter opponents claimed the shelter plan violates the state's multiple-dwelling law.

The regulation, allowing multiple, unrelated people to occupy a housing unit, states, “A family” is either a person occupying a

dwelling and maintaining a household, with not more than four boarders, roomers or lodgers, or two or more persons occupying a dwelling, living together and maintaining a common household.”

Hagberg argued that no more

than 4.5 people would occupy a floor at any given time, which is not uncommon in family households.

Russo and Hanna, who testified, said the shelter would threaten neighborhood security, but Judge Knipfel said the plaintiffs

failed to show substantial evidence of potential “irreparable harm.”

Outside the courtroom Richard Salerno, a Clinton Street resident, erupted. “I’ll be in every Asian community exposing this,” he vowed.

written policy, said Thomas.

Once the scope is approved, Ikea can create a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and consequent Environmental Impact Statement that outlines the effects the store would have on shadows, air quality, noise, construction impacts, zoning, traffic and parking among other issues.

After that the project can be certified and begin the city's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, which includes a series of public hearings.

through the city's rigorous land use review process, is at least two years from becoming a reality in Red Hook, even if approved.

In the meantime, a Fairway supermarket that might have been at 480-500 Van Brunt St., and a Lowe's home improvement store is planned for the former U.S. Postal Service site on Second Avenue between 10th and 11th streets.

Both of those businesses have also agreed to hire locally, but neither has submitted a

the possibility of returning trolley cars to the streets of Brooklyn,” Millman said.

While Diamond continues to seethe over the alleged betrayal by Melnick, he is also moving ahead with his lifelong dream.

As for Melnick, he says he just wants to put the whole dispute behind him and find a way to make the proposed trolley route a reality.

“We’re trying to do this the right way,” Melnick said.

TROLLEY...

Continued from page 1

lowering some of the trolley track that Diamond had laid, said he was shocked by the accusation.

“Calling these [allegations] absurd is being very mild,” said Melnick. “These are out of this world.”

“What can I say if there is no semblance of truth? He’s getting further and further away with each story,” Melnick said.

As for his political ties, Melnick said he knows Borough President Marty Markowitz from his tenure as a tenant advocate, but he’s never met Norman.

“It’s this kind of behavior that led us to leave the project,” Melnick said.

While both men have a passion for old trolley cars, they have differing views on how to run an organization. The split left a bad taste in Diamond's mouth, who said he is prepared to use Melnick's company if DIANA KANE

Diamond purchased 16 trolley cars, but 11 of those are sitting in storage at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, which, because of lack of payment, now considers them abandoned.

And Independence Community Bank has a lien on the cars for \$85,000, according to Diamond, who took out loans to buy them. While Brooklyn City Street Car does not own any trolleys, Melnick and his partner, Jan Lorenzen, say they can get some from Milan, Italy, and Philadelphia.

BHRA has already plunked more than \$800,000 in public and private funding into the Red Hook trolley idea, according to Diamond, who received more than \$300,000 in federal funds

and \$50,000 from the City Council. Diamond lost out on additional city funds that might have made the Red Hook trolley a reality when he failed to come up with the necessary matching funds.

Trolleys first rolled down Brooklyn streets on April 19, 1890, and were the predominant form of mass transit throughout Brooklyn until they were phased out in the beginning of the 1930s when buses were introduced.

The bridge park could change that.

“Trolleys are something we are certainly interested to see if we could incorporate into the plan,” James Morgan, president of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, told The Brooklyn Papers this week.

Morgan said he has discussed trolley plans with both Diamond and Melnick. He was not sure if the agency would have to put out a request for proposals before it hired a contractor to build a line.

Two years ago, Rep. Nydia Velázquez secured \$1 million in federal funding to study transportation and access issues at the park.

“If the question is one or the other, she’s not taking sides,” said Velázquez spokeswoman Wendy Belzer when asked about the Melnick versus Diamond debate. “She is committed to not one group but a good idea, the idea of making something that works well and works for the community.”

Assemblywoman Joan Millman is also a proponent of the trolley project and has even sent a letter of support on behalf of Melnick’s proposal.

“I am very enthusiastic about

McMONTY...

Continued from page 1

across the country who praise the four kinds of salsa, and free-range meats that pack the mas-

sive, 20-ounce burritos, bears little resemblance to the hamburger chain.

The interior of a typical Chipotle restaurant — named for a smoked jalapeño pepper — features stainless steel counter-tops, bright colors and Arts-and-Crafts-inspired wall sculptures. Chipotle also offers margaritas, beer and soft drinks.

The chain — founded by Steven Ellis, a Culinary Institute of America graduate — began a decade ago as a 20-person restaurant in Denver. Newell Smith said that one of the years they should have almost 300 retail outlets.

“Steve [Ellis] lived in San Francisco over a ‘taqueria’ and loved the food. And he thought, ‘This is great food, but I can do it better.’”

So he went back to his home town of Denver and built this little burrito joint but using French culinary techniques and ingredients,” Newell Smith explained. Ellis is the company CEO.

The “quick service” chain opened its first Manhattan outpost behind him and a find a way to make the proposed trolley route a reality.

“We’re trying to do this the right way,” Melnick said.

braved long lines for a taste as the eatery gave away free burritos all day long.

The average burrito price hovers around \$7.

So far, Brooklyn Heights is the only other New York City destination for the company outside of Manhattan, said Newell Smith.

“We don’t want to take away from the neighborhood’s personality. Chipotle has always tried to become part and parcel of a neighborhood,” she said.

When Chipotle opens on Montague Street, she said that they will probably not be doing a burrito giveaway.

While the Downtown-Brooklyn Heights court and office crowd may be particularly pleased to have a new place to grab lunch so close to Court Street, Taco Madre, a Mexican restaurant two blocks away, which has been on Montague Street for seven years, wasn’t so happy to hear the news.

“If they are good it could be really bad for us,” said Taco Madre manager Tony Mandariga, upon learning of the soon-to-be competition.

Chipotle isn’t the only eatery chain coming to Montague Street — a Subway sandwich shop will open in the former Old Mexico restaurant location at 115 Montague St., between Henry and Hicks streets, in February.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

December 1, 2003

Good sports

Keith Hernandez rallies his fans & friends for Cobble Hill center

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

It's nothing short of amazing that New York Mets great **Keith Hernandez** continues to throw his support behind the Cobble Hill Health Center and its annual "Field of Dreams" gala.

The latest benefit was held on Nov. 19 in the spacious ballroom of the New York Hilton in Manhattan.

Even more amazing is the fact that the ballplayer is so beloved by celebrity friends of all walks of life — from actress **Kathleen Turner**, to former "Gong Show" host **Chuck Barris** to his beleaguered '86 Mets teammate **Darryl Strawberry** — that he gets them all to turn out for his annual fete to benefit the construction of an Alzheimer's assisted-living center near the health center.

It's no secret to his celeb pals that Hernandez lost his mother, Jacquelyn, to Alzheimer's disease in 1989, at the age of 59. Hernandez has already lent his support to help raise funds to expand Field of Dreams gala Nov. 19, 2003

Cobble Hill Health Center programs, including an Adult Day Health Center for Alzheimer's patients, named in memory of Jacquelyn Hernandez.

"I am proud to be the chairman of the Field of Dreams gala and to be associated with the Cobble Hill Health Center," said Hernandez. "There is a tremendous need to create alternatives for a growing number of people with Alzheimer's disease who cannot remain safely at home, yet do not require expensive nursing home care."

Mets pitching ace **Al Leiter** told GO Brooklyn he came out to support the health center "because like so many charities and important causes [Cobble Hill Health Center] makes this world a better place."

"Keith's a good guy who gets it," said Leiter. "People who give back do it because we know how fortunate we are. It's not just

our money, it's our time and our money that's needed."

YES network sportscaster **Michael Kay** told GO Brooklyn, "This is a great cause. Keith asked me to come and it's hard to argue with this cause. It seems like more and more people are affected by the disease in some way."

The gala honored **Gary Carter**, a newly inducted baseball hall of famer and former Mets World Series teammate of Hernandez; the loquacious **Nachamiah Jacobovits**, senior vice president of the New York Mercantile Exchange (who had jocular TV sportscaster **Warner Wolf** announcing after her acceptance speech concluded that breakfast was about to be served); and **Joe O'Neill**, executive vice president of the New York Board of Trade.

The celebs were good sports about signing autographs — and they should be, as tickets were \$1,000 a pop. And in their wake the popping flashbulbs of paparazzi lit up the room. Among Hernandez's friends were former Met and Yankee **Dwight "Doc" Gooden**, Brooklyn-born Mets reliever **John Franco**, former '86 Met and Brooklyn Cyclones manager **Howard Johnson**, Met legend **Rusty Staub**, artist **LeRoy Neiman**, '86 Mets manager **Davey Johnson**, former Mets pitcher and Brooklyn Cyclones pitching coach **Bobby Ojeda**, 1969 Amazon Met **Ed Charles**, former '60s-era Met and Yankee **Phil Linz**, former New York Ranger hockey great **Rod Gilbert**, Lafayette High School grad and CEO of the New York Mets **Fred Wilpon** and former New York Giants Super Bowl winner **Phil McNoley**.

"There are so many celebrities here tonight, I'm the only one I've never heard of," joked Wolf.

Upon accepting his award, Carter said, "It's a tribute to Keith for all the ballplayers to be here tonight. I continue to say he was the best first baseman I've ever played with."

Carter also pointed out Strawberry in the audience.

"There's a united feeling amongst all of us of how terrific it is to see Darryl Strawberry here tonight. I'm so proud of you, to see you here tonight."

Carter also thanked his wife of 29 years, Sandy, and thanked the Cobble Hill Health Center for honoring him.

"I know how much this means to Keith Hernandez," said Carter. "It's a dread disease that I hope they one day find a cure for."

And if sports giants aren't your thing, the elegant affair had swinging music provided by the Mark Stevens Star Light Orchestra and a bar carved from ice. Bartenders poured the libations via the bar's frozen chutes into martini glasses. Those drinks must have had a hand in making it easier to bid high at the silent auction overflowing with coveted sports memorabilia.

"This event means the world to Keith," Hernandez's girlfriend of two and a half years, **Kal Thompson**, told GO Brooklyn. "His mother died of Alzheimer's at a very, very young age and ever since he's retired he's been working tirelessly — for 10 years — for this cause. We're hoping as of tonight to have



(1) Honoree Gary Carter with Cobble Hill Health Center CEO Olga Lipschitz at the Field of Dreams gala benefit at the New York Hilton in Manhattan. Among the attendees were (2) New York Met John Franco, (3) actress Kathleen Turner and (4) former New York Met and Yankee Darryl Strawberry.



Gala chairman Keith Hernandez signs autographs for fans at the Nov. 19 fundraiser.

BOOKS

Not so solitary

Celebrated Brooklyn novelist Jonathan Lethem will read from his new novel, "The Fortress of Solitude" (Doubleday, 2003) at 7:30 pm on Dec. 4 at Halcyon, 227 Smith St. at Butler Street.

Boerum Hill figures prominently in Lethem's novel about two neighboring boys growing up, despite their single fathers' unorthodox parenting techniques, on the same block in Brooklyn in the 1970s. "Fortress" has bowled over many a book lover, and many more Brooklyn-o-philes (and comic book fans). The boys dabble in super powers, graffiti and worse while they try to survive their not-yet-gentrified "hood on their way to manhood."

This novel follows Lethem's critically acclaimed novel "Motherless Brooklyn" (Doubleday, 1999), which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction. In that equally unconventional work, the noir-like story is told from the viewpoint of an orphaned young man, Lionel Essrog, who has Tourette's syndrome.

Reading a Lethem book about Brooklyn is an eye-opening experience indeed.

The reading event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (718) 260-WAXY.

— Lisa J. Curtis

ART

In the details

Micro Museum will host a reception for Norwegian artist Britt Hennig Dec. 4 at 6:30 pm, at the gallery located at 123 Smith St. between Dean and Pacific streets in Boerum Hill.

Among the works on display in "Britt Hennig: Recent Paintings" is "Bajazzo III," pictured. Most of her meticulous still-life paintings appear to be influenced by the Flemish and Dutch painters of the 14th to 16th centuries. The museum will also host an art discussion Dec. 7 from 4 pm to 5 pm. The exhibition is on display Dec. 1-14. For more information, call (718) 797-3116. These events are free and open to the public.



DANCE



What a doll

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts brings the Moscow Classical Ballet to Midwood for a performance of the holiday classic, "The Nutcracker," on Nov. 30 at 3 pm.

The ballet company, under the artistic direction of Natalia Kasatkina and Vladimir Vasilyov — former members of the Kirov Ballet, is one of only three state-supported Russian ballet companies along with the Bolshoi and the Kirov. The choreography by Vasily Vainonov, Kasatkina and Vasilyov is set to Pyotr Tchaikovsky's thrilling score.

Tickets are \$30 and \$35. The performance will take place at the Walt Whitman Theater, 2900 Carhys Road at Hill Place, at the back west of the intersection of Nostrand and Flatbush Avenues. For tickets and more information, call (718) 951-4500 or visit www.brooklyncenter.org.

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BROOKLYN Bites

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week:
PROSPECT HEIGHTS

Aliseo Osteria del Borgo

665 Vanderbilt Ave. at Park Place, (718) 783-3400 (Cash only) Entrees: \$6-\$16.50. *

Tiny and tucked in the heart of Prospect Heights, this Italian restaurant features a new menu each day. Sample inventive dishes like *l'orzino di miale* (corn fitch pork loin stuffed with herbs and balsamic vinegar) or *l'aragosta* (lobster with herbs and balsamic vinegar). There are also interesting pastas like meat-stuffed cannelloni with a truffle-infused bechamel sauce. Check out the cheese selection, and the wine list, much of which hails from the Marche region of Italy. Aliseo's owner, Albano Ballerini. Open Tuesday through Sunday for dinner.

Biscuit

367 Flatbush Ave. at Sterling Place, (718) 398-2227 (Cash only) Entrees: \$6-\$16.50. *

Biscuit, the barely year-old, Carolina-style barbecue restaurant is probably not the place to go if you're on a diet; the most popular items on the menu are the half-rack of ribs and the fried half-chicken. There are also drabbed pork ribs, smoked chicken and salmon, catfish sandwiches and sides like red beans and rice, collard greens, and cheese grits. All pastries are made fresh daily on the premises by Maio Martinez, who co-owns Biscuit with Josh Cohen.

Brooklyn Museum of Art Cafe

200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue, (718) 638-5000 (MC, Visa \$10 min) Sandwiches: \$2-\$5.75.

Contemplate the artworks of Asia, Africa and ancient Egypt over coffee. Discuss the Latvian Expressionism of Mark Rothko over wine. Marvel at the bold genius of Auguste Rodin's "Monument to Balzac" over chicken fingers and fries. The cafe is the perfect place for a timeout after wandering by the museum's impressive holdings. Museum admission: \$6 adults; \$3 students and seniors; free to Museum members and children 12 and younger. Open Wednesday through Friday to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday to 5:45 p.m.

Garden Cafe

620 Vanderbilt Ave. at St. Marks Avenue, (718) 857-8863 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$20-\$30.

With winter fast approaching, the name of this 18-year-old restaurant recalls warmer times, sunshine and blooming flowers. Many of the dishes on Chef John Polcastro's menu incorporate warm, sunny flavors. His duck breast is served with tamarind and pomegranate sauce; the sea bass comes dressed in sultana raisins, currants and pine nuts. For dessert, the staff is partial to the lemon tarts with raspberry fraiche sauce. Or try the equally delightful-sounding frozen black and white sorbet with almond crunch and dark chocolate sauce. (Priced as follows: two courses, \$23; three courses, \$28.) Closed Mondays.

JRG Fashion Cafe

177 Flatbush Ave. at Pacific Street, (718) 399-7079 (DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$20. *

This Caribbean oasis blends owner J.R. Giddings' twin passions for fashion and food. Expect dressed-up versions of West Indian favorites — codfish and ackee gets reinvented here as a tempura fish cake — or catfish served with a side of rice and beans. As the name would suggest, Giddings hosts a fashion show in the cafe on the fourth Thursday of each month, and displays clothing from local designers on mannequins throughout the space. On the first Monday of each month, there are liquor and wine tastings with live jazz. The cafe is open until midnight, Sunday-Thursday, and until 4 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Mama Duke's Southern Cuisine

243 Flatbush Ave. at Bergen Street, (718) 857-8700 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-\$12.

If you can't get home to see your mama, you can get great home cooking here. Serving entrees, salads, sides, desserts (including "the best red

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Biscuit chef Josh Cohen with a skewer full of hickory smoked pork ribs.

velvet cake in town," according to their menu, Mama Duke's is "soul food to go." All baking and cooking is from scratch. (Mama Duke's is owned by Janice Combs, mother of Sean "P. Diddy" Combs.) Entrees range from turkey meatloaf to salmon with a barbecue glaze, served with two sides and cornbread. Don't forget the sweet potato pie, either. Weekend brunch features salmon with grits, fried catfish with grits and chicken livers — with grits. Open daily.

New Prospect Cafe

393 Flatbush Ave. at St. Johns Place, (718) 638-2148 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.75-\$16.

The selections at the New Prospect Cafe are some well-traveled dishes indeed. "Take an appetizer like skewered chicken — at home anywhere — garnish it with a Southeast Asian-style spicy peanut sauce and serve it over Japanese udon noodles. That's the idea for many of the dishes on the menu here, although some are more traditional (penne pasta with spinach, portobello mushrooms and pine nuts) than others (blackened catfish with green mole, salsa and corn pudding). Open daily.

Sugarcane

238 Flatbush Ave. at Bergen Street, (718) 230-3954 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-\$18. *

Chief Phoebe Gumbira brings Caribbean cooking with a Trinidadian influence to the Park Slope Prospect Heights area and gets rave reviews for her seafood, especially the sugarcane shrimp skewers and corned shrimp. The jerk chicken, a Jamaican favorite, is also worth a try, but it's hard to choose just one dish from an entire menu bursting with sunny flavors. Patrons clamor for the calallo, made with okra and dandelion leaves, which is traditionally a side dish. Sugarcane often hosts live local bands — jazz on Thursday nights and steel drums for weekend brunch. Closed Mondays.

Tavern on Dean

755 Dean St. at Underhill Street, (718) 638-3326 (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12.95-\$18.95. *

Tavern on Dean is a cozy American tavern. The other bar food — hamburgers and club sandwiches — as well as more substantial fare. Sample the roast half-chicken, sautéed catfish, roast herb-crusted salmon as well as steamed mussels in white wine and grilled marinated hanger steak with a Marjol and shallot reduction. The kitchen is open until 3 a.m., Thursday through Saturday, and until 1 a.m. the rest of the week. The enclosed garden is heated during the winter. Dinner only.

Terrace Cafe

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave. at Montgomery Street, (718) 623-7200 (Cash only) Menu: \$2.25-\$5.95.

Don't forget to stop and smell the roses. Now if you're tempted to eat them, be sure to stop to the Terrace Cafe, which offers lunches and beverages. The winter menu features sandwiches like the grilled chicken and ham and Swiss, as well as chicken pot pies and Texas-style chili. Dining is outdoors on the terrace from spring to early fall and in the lower level of the Steinhardt Conservatory in late fall and winter. Closed Mondays.

Tom's Diner

752 Washington Ave. at Sterling Place, (718) 636-9738 (Cash only) Entrees: \$3.75-\$10.

Steeped in nostalgia, Tom's Diner serves food in a family environment with the glided grace of Glenn Miller. Not only does the restaurant keep the past alive and dear, its customers come back for generations, says owner Gus Vilavivas. Bountiful stacks of pancakes — from pumpkin-walnut to fresh strawberry — top the breakfast menu, while the lunch menu is all comfort food, like roast chicken or turkey with stuffing or corned beef and cabbage. Try a cherry-limey, a classic fountain drink made with fresh lime juice. Open 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday.



By The Brooklyn Papers: Chris Nappo

Get sauced

Park Slope's Paradou restaurant will warm you up with hearty seasonal fare

By Lisa J. Curtis

GO Brooklyn Editor

When the temperature drops and the snowflakes begin to swirl, look no farther for hearty, flavorful winter fare than Paradou. The stick-to-your-ribs French cuisine this Park Slope bistro is currently turning out is rich and saucy, and the generous portions are meant for diners with healthy appetites who snuggly hide their extra bulk under trendy, chunky sweaters.

The only missing accoutrement at Paradou, named for a village in Provence, is a fireplace.

Regardless, the restaurant, which opened in June in the old Max & Moritz location, does have warm, welcoming decor: glowing golden fabric loosely billows down from the ceiling and varnished wood wine crates have been transformed into bistro tables and a bar. The walls are adorned with large posters of your favorite French films (or those films that you always meant to watch, but never got around to). On this night a duo played live jazz, while a young Catherine Deneuve watched us from a "Belle De Jour" poster.

But it's the oversized portions of delicious French fare that make you feel as if you're a welcome guest in the

home of a good friend.

We enjoyed the light, refreshing Paradou signature cocktail — creme de cassis, Lillet and a splash of champagne — which arrived in a tall, slender beaker. The excellent wine list is smartly offered in quarter-liters, half-liters and full bottles for a variety of budgets.

Hopefully, on your visit you'll find the soup du jour to be the creamy, sweet and buttery parsnip soup drizzled with truffle oil — a rich, decadent opener for a winter meal.

The tartlette appetizer — potato gratin with lardons (bacon chunks), caramelized onions and Reblochon cheese — was served in a casserole dish large enough for two! But somehow my dinner companion would only allow me one creamy, nutty, smoky bite before he devoured the rest. Had I not been burrowed into my own salad of tangy mixed greens full of thick chunks of juicy beets and slices of warmed toast slathered with herbéd goat cheese, I probably could have stolen another bite of that tartlette.

We quickly grew excited about our south Slope discovery, owned by Vadim Ponorevsky who also has the Paradou in Manhattan. Somehow, tireless chef Robert Ubhaus runs back and forth between the two, overseeing such robust

entrees as the entrecôte au Roquefort, a substantial serving of flavorful steak that forms a trio with mixed greens and potato au gratin. While I wished that those layered potatoes had less biting black pepper, the steak — cut from between the ninth and eleventh ribs of beef — was cooked to medium rare perfection. And that creamy sauce on the side was pure decadence!

The seared sea scallops with fennel, a sweet slice of red pepper, roasted fingerling potatoes and baby arugula had us wishing for bread so we could sop up every last bit of that delicious scallop jus.

The cassoulet with duck confit was flawless. The crisp-skinned, moist duck leg sat atop a heaping portion of bean stew that was richly flavored with generous chunks of sausage, duck meat and ham.

Dessert is clearly a serious matter at Paradou, making it easier to prolong the moment before diners have to brave the cold. We sipped on small glasses of sweet Muscat while we nibbled Chef



French connection: Paradou Chef Robert Ubhaus with his duck confit, cassoulet and his poisson du jour, a corvina fish. (Above left) Ubhaus' crispy sea scallops served with fennel, potatoes and baby arugula.

Ubhaus' thoughtfully edited cheese platter and cluster of impossibly juicy Concord grapes. After easily sucking the ripe, explosively flavored fruits from their purple skins, I understood why those grapes had been immortalized in so many still-life paintings.

At the risk of exploding ourselves, we also sampled one of the many varieties of Ubhaus' dessert crepes: the warm caramelized apples nestled in thin, sweet crepes dusted with powdered sugar tasted of fall days in New England. (Although the chocolate and candied orange crepe sounded like a trip worth taking, too.)

On our next visit, we're also sampling the menu of Joel Durand chocolate truffles offered as a plate of four or a gift box of 16.

Paradou's menu changes with the seasons, so there will be another menu full of reasons to return when spring blooms and the restaurant's garden is open again. As soon as we returned home, we curled up on the couch and took a long nap — dreaming of our next visit to this sliver of Provence in Park Slope.

Call Gopher and Isaac

"It's Bohemian industrial," Jack Lau says in describing Shinjuku Japanese Cuisine, the restaurant he manages on Atlantic Avenue.

"There are hand-pressed heavy metal I-beams, and instead of the conventional wood sushi bar, ours is made of brass edged in silver — very beautiful."

He's as enthusiastic about the food as he is the surroundings.

For two big eaters, Lau recommends the "Love Boat": 10 pieces of sushi, 18 slices of sashimi, one maki roll selected by the chef and the Alaskan salmon roll plus miso soup and salad.

"Everyone who comes in since we opened on July Fourth says, 'Wow. Wonderful. Very fresh,'" says Lau.

One of his favorite menu items is the Empire roll, filled with soft-shell crab, eel, avocado and salmon caviar rolled in thin slices of cucumber instead of rice.

There's a hibachi section on the menu, too. "But," says Lau, "it's not like Benihana. We do the cooking in the kitchen."

"The wine list is small but growing; and the six sakes offered include one that is 'slightly sweet, unfilleted and milky white' and another that's 'oaky with a cedar cast.' Lau can accommodate parties up to 12 behind the screens of the private tatami room, the perfect place for a cruise on the Love Boat.

Shinjuku Japanese Cuisine (177 Atlantic Ave. between Clinton and Court streets in Brooklyn Heights) accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. Entrees: \$9.95 to \$45.95 (for the "Love Boat" for two). The restaurant serves lunch and dinner seven days a week. For reservations call (718) 935-1300.

— Tina Barry

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by PHILIP BARRY

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High seas terrorists

Bklyn Phil & Ridge Theater present John Adams' opera 'The Death of Klinghoffer'

By Kevin Filippski
for The Brooklyn Papers

Who says opera is an artificial art form unable to deal with issues of today? Surely not composer John Adams, whose operas continually tackle contemporary subjects. His first opera, "Nixon in China" (1987), dramatized that president's historic 1972 visit, and "I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky" (1995) was inspired by the large-magnitude Southern California earthquake of January 1994.

But Adams' most significant and prescient opera is 1991's "The Death of Klinghoffer," in which poet Alice Goodman's libretto tackles a complex subject that, sadly, remains relevant today—terrorism.

Specifically, "The Death of Klinghoffer" is about the October 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in the Mediterranean Sea by four Palestinians. The title character is Leon Klinghoffer, a wheelchair-bound Jewish American passenger murdered by the hijackers, who then tossed his body and wheelchair overboard.

Adams' music, which often recalls the stately elegance of Bach's choral works, lends itself to a stylized visualization of Goodman's libretto, which brings us to Ohio award-winning stage director Bob McGrath, whose work with the experimental Ridge Theater makes him the perfect choice for the Brooklyn Academy of Music's "staged concert version" of "Klinghoffer," with Robert Spino conducting the Brooklyn Philharmonic on Dec. 3, 5 and 6 at the Howard Gilman Opera House.

"I'm sure one of the reasons they asked me to do it is because of our style, the way we use projections and lighting," McGrath told GO Brooklyn between rehearsals. "We often put our



Rocking the boat: Director Bob McGrath (at left) brings John Adams' controversial opera, "The Death of Klinghoffer," to the Brooklyn Academy of Music Dec. 3, 5 and 6.

place [the staging] within the ship it happened on. We're not trying to make it too abstract—we're keeping our focus on the reality."

Of course, since "Klinghoffer" has aroused such extreme passion, both pro and con—the latter typified by a New York Times critic's screech that the opera was essentially worthless—McGrath is aware that even avoiding taking sides is, to some people, a way of taking sides.

"It's such a hot issue," he says. "It's so inflammatory and incendiary that people have a lot of really strong feelings about this. That's just inherent in doing the thing. But this is an historical thing that happened, that's just the way I'm approaching it."

McGrath actually found a kindred spirit from a most unlikely source: Penny Woolcock's acclaimed film of the opera, recently released on DVD by Decca. Woolcock reworked Adams and Hoffman's original concept to make it better suited to the film medium, and the results are stunning.

"I didn't think I was going to like it—I don't know why—but I really thought it was great," says McGrath. "I pretty much had my whole concept together when I saw it, but I'm sure it im-

pacted my ideas a little, because I was really impressed, especially by the way [Woolcock] did things I can't do—the created back stories for the terrorists and the passengers on the boat."

Woolcock's film used a recording of Adams conducting the London Symphony Orchestra; for BAM's version, McGrath is thrilled to be teaming with Spino and the Brooklyn Philharmonic for the first time.

"This is my 'debut' with a full orchestra," he says with a laugh. "It's been fantastic working with Bob Spino, because he's energetic, he's got great ideas, and he's been supportive of my concept from the start."

But, in the end, it all hinges on how audiences respond to this musical and dramatic recreation of an incident that will live in infamy for the many people that it impacted on.

His director wants to downplay everything except the essentials: what happened to 400 innocent passengers and crew at the hands of some violently misguided individuals.

"I don't want to fan any flames," McGrath insists. "I just want to show the horror of what happened over these two days in this gorgeous spot in the Mediterranean."

MUSIC

Ridge Theater's production of "The Death of Klinghoffer" will be staged in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene) on Dec. 3, 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$40 and \$55, and they can be purchased by calling BAM Ticket Services at (718) 636-4100, or by visiting the Web site at www.bam.org.

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— The Brooklyn Papers

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AARON'S

Where to G

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

Fri, Nov 28

BARGEMUSIC: presents a concert of music by Barok, Lisc, Cope, Zyken and Ennes. \$35. 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents "Dollhouse." 7:30 p.m. See Sat., Nov. 29.

COAT DRIVE: New York Cars Coat Drive. Drop off donations at more than 220 sites throughout the metropolitan area including all Walgreens Pharmacies.

Time Warner Cable payment centers, Janovic Plaza Stores in Manhattan and police precincts. (212) 402-1173.

Sat, Nov 29

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

NATURE PHOTO WALK: at Salt Marsh Nature Center. 7 a.m. 3302 Ave. U. Call 311 and ask for the Brooklyn Urban Park Rangers. Free.

PERFORMANCE

OPERA: Regia Opera presents Humpelrind's "Hansel and Gretel." \$15. \$10 seniors and students. 4 p.m. Regia Hall, 608th Street and 12th Avenue. (718) 232-3555.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents "Dollhouse." 7:30 p.m. See Sat., Nov. 29.

BARGEMUSIC: presents a free concert of music by Mozart, Chopin, Schmitt and Brahms. 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083. Free.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Holiday" by Philip Barry. \$15. \$12 seniors and children 12 and under. 8 p.m. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

PLAY: Charlie Pineapple Theater Company presents "Danny and the Deep Blue Sea." \$12. 9 p.m. 2488 North 8th St. (718) 907-0577.

CHILDREN

BIG CHAIR: Kids are invited to have their pictures taken in an 8 foot tall chair. \$5 per 4 inch by 6 inch print. Noon to 4 p.m. 123 Smith St. (718) 797-3116.

PUPPETWORKS: "1001 Tales of the Arabian Nights" adaptation of "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp." \$6. \$7 adults. Ages 3 and older. 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. 338 54th Ave. (718) 965-3391.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM ART: "Any Facts" presents "Mix and Match." Kids under 12 free. Adults \$6. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Also, "A Continuous Journey" at 4 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

OTHER

REUNION: St. Agnes Society. Class of '73. hosts a 30th reunion. Call. 12:30 p.m. Gargiulo's Restaurant, Conover Island. (732) 238-4636.

DANCE PARTY: Clockwork Entertainment produces its monthly Brooklyn Soul dance party. Free before 10 p.m. \$5 from 10 p.m. to midnight. 9 p.m. Scorpiano Restaurant, 63 Lafayette Ave. (212) 501-3717.

Sun, Nov 30

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BIRDING THE CREEK: See the birds which reside at the Salt Marsh Nature Center. 8 a.m. 3302 Ave. U. Call 311 and ask for the Brooklyn Urban Park Rangers. Free.

ECOLOGY TOUR: "Naturalist" "Wildman" Steve Brill hosts "Wild Food and Ecology Tour" of Marine Park. \$10. \$5 children 12 and under. Call for reservations and meeting location. (914) 958-2153.

PERFORMANCE

CBBC: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents the Moscow Classical Ballet in "The Nutcracker." \$35. \$30. 3 p.m. Valt Whitman Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from intersection of Flatbush and Flatbush avenues. (718) 951-4500.

BOXING MUSICAL: Cleo's Gym presents a musical with highlights of the life and career of Mike Tyson. Musical is staged entirely in the ring. \$12. 3 p.m. 63 Front St. (718) 259-5485.

MUSIC SERIES: Safe "Gallery hosts the DUB&QUE Music Series of new music. Today silent films with flickering. Ensemble. 4 p.m. 134 Bayard St. (718) 782-5920. Free.

CONCERT: Music from David Shepherd presents music with violinist Gregory Harrington. 6 p.m. Grand and Brown Street, Marine Park. (718) 998-2800. Free.

BARGEMUSIC: presents a concert of music by Mozart, Chopin, Schmitt and Brahms. \$35. 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

GALLERY PLAYERS: presents "Holiday." 3 p.m. See Sat., Nov. 29.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents "Dollhouse." 4 p.m. See Sat., Nov. 29.

OPERA: Regia Opera presents "Hansel and Gretel." 4 p.m. See Sat., Nov. 29.

CHILDREN

PUPPETWORKS: "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp." 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. See Sat., Nov. 29.

GARDEN DECORATING: Community members are invited to decorate the Hoyt Street Garden for the holidays. Bring non-breakable ornaments. Refreshments served. 2 p.m. Corner of Hoyt Street and Atlantic Avenue. (718) 237-4163.

FALL-LAURE: Handymen Sports Bar and Cafe hosts a gift boutique of one-of-a-kind gifts. Vendors include handcrafted dolls, hand created candles, custom-made jewelry and knits, paintings, greeting cards and more. Also, live entertainment. Two-dollar minimum. 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. 173 Flatbush Ave. (212) 618-7313.

Mon, Dec 1

LECTURE SERIES: Congregation B'nai Avraham hosts a talk, "Resurrection Man." 8 p.m. 117 Remsen St. (718) 596-4840. Free.

FLM: Barbes Traveling Cinema film series presents "A New La Liberté" (1931). 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9777. Free.

Tues, Dec 2

MONEY TALK: Pratt Area Community College hosts a series "Bring Me to the Bank: Building and Preserving Wealth." Topic: "Insurance." 6:30 p.m. 266 LaFayette Place. (718) 783-3549. Free.

MEETING: DUMBO BID Steering Committee meets to discuss a business improvement district would benefit the community. 7 p.m. Phoenix House, 50 Jay St. (718) 222-5500.

POETRY: Park Slope Poetry Project hosts an open mic. Also, Thea Donnelly reads. \$5 donation. 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. 263 Prospect Ave. (718) 789-2597.

BACINEMATEX: "The Extraordinary Mr. Barnett: The House on Tulanyra Square" (1928). 7:30 p.m. Live piano accompaniment by Donald Sloan. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents "Dollhouse." 7:30 p.m. See Sat., Nov. 29.

OPERA: Regia Opera presents "Hansel and Gretel." 4 p.m. See Sat., Nov. 29.

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GALLERY PLAYERS: "Holiday" by Philip Barry. \$15. \$12 seniors and children 12 and under. 8 p.m. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

PLAY: Charlie Pineapple Theater Company presents "Danny and the Deep Blue Sea." \$12. 9 p.m. 2488 North 8th St. (718) 907-0577.

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ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents "Dollhouse." 7:30 p.m. See Sat., Nov. 29.

OPERA: Regia Opera presents "Hansel and Gretel." 4 p.m. See Sat., Nov. 29.

BARGEMUSIC: presents a concert of music by Barok, Lisc, Cope, Zyken and Ennes. \$35. 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

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The family

Cousins II's Butch Ford hosts relaxed sets of live music

By Ed Beeson
for The Brooklyn Papers

After 36 years in the music business, guitarist Butch Ford says he has played with REO Speedwagon, Billy Joel and The Eagles, and he's been a stage manager for Liza Minnelli, Bette Midler and George Benson. Now, as the weekend manager at Cousins II in Cobble Hill, Ford is waiting for his next talent to arrive.

It's 10 pm on Saturday and the restaurant's dinner crowd has thinned. It's time for some live music.

Like a rock star, George Kilby Jr. is late to his own gig. Five minutes late to be exact, according to a clock on the wall. And, like a rock star, Kilby doesn't seem to notice.

He enters the room with energy that jumps off his skin frame, and a whiff of cigarette smoke follows his lead. He unzips his guitar case.

Tonight, Kilby and two backing musicians will play original New Orleans-influenced blues for Ford's weekly live music showcase. Although the restaurant — a sports bar and grill — seems an unlikely venue for live music, Ford has booked live acts here for nearly 20 years. A personal project, it allows him to promote a variety of professional musicians in a more intimate setting than, say, B.B. King's Blues Club & Grill in Times Square, where Kilby has performed with 90-year-old pianist Pinetop Perkins.

"That is why I'm here. It's my playhouse," Ford says.

The secret seems well kept. Cousins II attracts a diverse and well-groomed lot in their 30s and 40s who pack the place for karaoke on Fridays and football on Sundays. But tonight, Cousins is relaxed.

Kilby plays feel-good blues with spunky flair. The tip of his worn cowboy boot keeps time with hard snarks on the floor. His body croons and croons to the music and his clear, spirited vocals command attention. A slight Southern twang registers in his voice, which belies his native Annapolis, Ala., although his personality is all New York. He has made Williamsburg his home for much of the last 10 years.

His backing players, Steve Antonakos on guitar, and Ritt Henn on standup bass, keep pace with Kilby and take leads when they can.

The music is loud, but not too loud for conversation. Diners focus on one another as the music bounces in the background.

Those here for the music stand near the bar and by the entryway. Their heads bob up and down to Kilby and company's tuneless lures.

One man claps with wide, lazy sweeps of his hands. Another, clad in a striped fedora and a necktie that dangles from his unbuttoned blue collar, silently mouths Kilby's lyrics.

The man who plays widely approaches Kilby after the first set. He has a request — Jimmy Buffett's "Margaritaville." Kilby hesitates, then scratches his forehead across his neck. He says he's not sure if he knows the lyrics.



Live from Cobble Hill, it's Saturday night! George Kilby Jr., guitarist Steve Antonakos and Ritt Henn on standup bass performed the blues at Cousins II on Nov. 15.

But the fan, Andre Blalock, insists, "You guys got to know 'Margaritaville.' It's a classic."

Ford intercedes. He says he'll sing the song instead.

Then the man in the fedora leaves without waving goodbye.

Kilby rocks, his shoulders slung into the strap of his guitar, his foot tapping on. It's a few minutes before the man in the fedora returns with a clarinet. His fellow head boppers notice the instrument and wave to Kilby. Without a missed beat, Kilby asks his name.

"Jack," the man in the fedora says. "Jack, come on stage," Kilby says.

Jack follows forward and begins to play at Kilby's command like a Pied Piper in reverse. While Jack's rhythm isn't as steady as the rest of the troupe, Kilby tells him to take a solo anyway. Then, Kilby points to Henn for a bass solo. Jack plays over it, to which Kilby by grunts and shakes his head, "ahhh." Kilby points to Antonakos for the next solo. Jack wisely keeps his clarinet quiet.

Kilby points his finger back at Jack.

"Now hit it again, Jack," he says. They finish the song together and Jack (whose last name is Blalock, it turns out) is all smiles.

"It's very comfortable here," says Jack, who frequents Cousins for its live music. "And they don't have bad shows."

As Jack leaves the stage, Kilby strums the first chords to "Margaritaville" and Ford takes the microphone. His trained voice lends unexpected grace to the song.

"I've hung out in Manhattan. I've hung out in Brooklyn. And I have had a really good time here. This place is awesome. That guy," says Blalock, pointing to Kilby, "is awesome. They made my night with that song."

That's what Ford wants. He wants his performers to connect with his audience.

"Musicians are people who sit in chairs in the philharmonic because they can't perform," Ford says. "I don't want to hear you play your instrument. I want to see you perform. I want to see you entertain."

that Schmidt isn't willing to ignore.

"I'm tweaking every single theatrical convention," he notes gleefully, "even the conventions of the program." Indeed, the program is hilarious reading, particularly when Schmidt lists prestigious theater companies who have rejected his submissions, or when he expresses his gratitude to the public institutions and private corporations that have not provided financial support.

"Most people pass right by that little thing about the funding," he says, grinning mischievously, "because they think, 'Oh, I've seen that a million times, and they don't read it.'"

This could be tricky territory, playing fast and loose with audience expectations, especially where religious themes are involved. But Schmidt handles his material so deftly, and with so much intelligence and wit, that people are rarely offended.

"I've had the Catholic priest who married us, I've had several rabbis, seminarians [at the performance] — and basically everybody is fine with it," he says. After all, this is a performer who is brave enough to sit down and break bread with his audience after every show.

Mostly, the audience goes home well fed and well entertained. On the way out, almost every stop by to shake Schmidt's hand and thank him for a wonderful evening.

For his part, Schmidt seems to be genuinely enjoying himself. He'd have to be, to keep slaving over a hot stove, weekend after weekend, while a mess of strangers invade his home.

Schmidt's attitude is typically good-natured: "I've created this part, Schmidt seems to be genuinely enjoying himself. He'd have to be, to keep slaving over a hot stove, weekend after weekend, while a mess of strangers invade his home."

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Host with the most

Schmidt's 'Last Supper' still wines and dines 'em

By Andrew Clevenger
for The Brooklyn Papers

Many shows boast that they offer something for everyone, but how many can say they offer nourishment for the mind, body and soul?

As unlikely as it sounds, playwright-performer Ed Schmidt's "The Last Supper" accomplishes just that, with a heady mix of theater, comedy, religion and food. Yes, food — the playwright prepares a four-course meal for the audience during the performance.

Which is only fair, since you're sitting in his kitchen. The evening starts off with a hymn — Schmidt has installed church pews, complete with hymnals, in his apartment to accommodate his numerous dinner guests — and the atmosphere is very much like that of a religious service, an impression only reinforced by a reading from the Bible.

But things quickly veer in unexpected — and frequently hilarious — directions. Schmidt is setting the proper mood for the performance of his play, "The Last Supper," a re-imagining of the most famous dinner party in history (complete with a betrayal by a small-time hood named Judas).

Schmidt, who plays all the parts himself, draws the audience in with his good-natured charm, only to interrupt himself repeatedly with amusing asides and convoluted explanations, all delivered with terrific comic timing. He almost toys with his audience, probing the limits of what they will and will not believe.

Turns out this faith thing is trickier than it appears. "I've always found that fascinating, the notion of what you believe as an audience member, whether you will suspend your disbelief," Schmidt entertained and led 25 people that night, who chatted happily as they ate the delicious meal together, and waited eagerly for Schmidt to join the party so they could play him with questions about the performance.

The show originated in Schmidt's home in Park Slope, with audiences entering through his basement, and words of mouth led to packed houses. But success has its price: Following particularly flattering write-ups in GO Brooklyn and the New York Times, overwhelming demand forced Schmidt to relocate "The Last Supper" to this larger Chelsea apartment.



Something's fishy: Actor-playwright Ed Schmidt with ingredients to "The Last Supper," which has outgrown his Park Slope kitchen and dining room.

With audiences entering through his basement, and words of mouth led to packed houses. But success has its price: Following particularly flattering write-ups in GO Brooklyn and the New York Times, overwhelming demand forced Schmidt to relocate "The Last Supper" to this larger Chelsea apartment.

Schmidt enjoyed performing the show in Brooklyn for a year and a half — "I liked the idea of all these Manhattanites coming out to Brooklyn like it was this exotic place," he says with a laugh — but opportunity beckoned across the water.

"I miss doing the show in Brooklyn, but coming to Manhattan has allowed me to seat twice as many people," he says. Performances are still very intimate affairs, however, with a maximum seating capacity of 30.

Schmidt makes the most of the friendly setting, constantly interacting with his audience, responding to comments directly, even pulling a member or two up on stage, i.e. the space around the island in the middle of the kitchen. There don't seem to be any boundaries — performer, audience, theater/religious, fact/fiction —

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30 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene,
(718) 634-4100, www.bamcafe.com
Nov. 28-29: Wunns, 9 pm, FREE with \$10 food/drink minimum.

Barbes

376 Ninth St., at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, www.barbesbrooklyn.com
Nov. 28: The Moonlighters, 9 pm, FREE; Nov. 29: Tasty Mussels Two Peta Galus, Denise Rodman, and Greta Gierli, 8 pm, FREE; Nov. 30: The Hot Club of New York, 9 pm, FREE; Dec. 3: Christine Bard and Steve Swell, 9 pm, \$8; Dec. 5: Django A Go Go celebration featuring the Hot Club of Philadelphia, 1 set for \$10 or both sets for \$15, 8 pm and 9:30 pm.

Bennett's Bar

7102 Fort Hamilton Parkway at 71st Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-9403
Nov. 30: Skeleton Crew and DJ, 7 pm, FREE.

Blah Blah Lounge

501 11th St., at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 349-8474, www.blahblahlounge.com
Wednesdays: Open mic, 8:30 pm, FREE; Nov. 28: DJ Kerry Hinton, 9 pm, FREE; Nov. 29: Randy Kaplan, 9 pm, FREE; Dec. 1: James Miao, 7 pm, FREE; Dec. 5: DJ Kruish Pappy, 9 pm, FREE; Comedy Convey w/Ray Field, 10:30 pm, \$5.

Boudoir Bar

At East End Ensemble, 273 5th St. at Sackett Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 624-8878, www.eastendensemble.com
Nov. 29: Brooklyn Brew Ha Ha comedy, 9 pm, \$5 with 2 drink minimum.

Chocolate Monkey

329 Flatbush Ave., at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 813-1073
Mondays: Karen Gibson-Rock with Fluid, 8 pm, \$5; Thursdays: Karaoke with Terry Bili, 8 pm, FREE; Fridays: Happy Hour w/DJ Oskar, 5 pm, FREE.

Cousins

160 Court St., at Amity Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 596-3574
Fridays: Karaoke, 10 pm, FREE; Nov. 29: Ray Ramos Caribbean pop, 10 pm, FREE.

Duplex

1405 6th Ave., at South Street in Clinton Hill, (718) 645-6400, www.theduplex.com
Fridays: Bang the Party deep underground house party, 10 pm; Saturdays: Island Vibes DJ's spin R&B, hip-hop and reggae, 10 pm; FREE; Sundays: Reggie Caribbean music, 8 pm, FREE; after 9 pm, women pay \$5 and men pay \$10; Tuesdays: Caviar Tuesdays with karaoke and dancing, 8 pm, \$15, \$5 for women before 10 pm.

Five Spot

459 11th Ave., at Washington Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 852-0022, www.livespotsoffood.com
Mondays: Open turntables bring your own needles and vinyl, 8 pm, FREE; Thursdays: Super Lowkey Bros. freestyle session with musicians, poets and singers, sign at 9 pm, \$5.

Frank's Lounge

1465 6th Ave., at South Street in Clinton Hill, (718) 625-9339, www.FranksCocktailLounge.com
Thursdays: Blues with Lonnie Youngblood, 9 pm, FREE; Fridays: DJ's Tyrone and Julie, 10 pm, \$5; DJ Kim Lightfoot (upstairs), 11 pm, \$5; Saturdays: DJ's Tyrone and Julie, 10 pm, \$5; Sundays: Caviar Gypsy Quartet, 8 pm, FREE; Mondays: DJ's Keith Porter and James Vincent, Tuesdays: DJ's CX Kidron, 9 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Karaoke with Davey B., 9 pm, FREE.

Freddy's Bar & Backroom

485 Dean St., at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 622-7035, www.freddysbarandbackroom.com
Nov. 28: Dante Mazzetti, The Pressure Mechanics, 9:30 pm, FREE.

Galapagos

70 N. Sixth St., at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-5188, www.galapagosbarandbackroom.com
Nov. 28: DJ's Doublemint and DJ Spinoza, 10 pm, FREE; Actual Proof, 9 pm, \$5; DJ Jesse Knight, 10 pm, FREE; Dec. 1: Monday evening burlesque with Max Saturn, Selena Vain, Harvest Moon, 9:30 pm, \$10; Dec. 2: New rock weekly, 9 pm, \$6; Dec. 5: Floating waterfalls, 10 pm, \$10.

Halcyon

227 Smith St., at Rialto Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 260-9299, www.halcyonlounge.com
Sundays: Bingo-a-go-go, 9 pm, FREE; Sundays: Hangover Helper, noon, FREE and Undercity with residents Sheldon Drake and DJ Spinoza, Clark or Owen, Mengi Khalaf, and Halafat spinning experimental and psychedelic chloot, 7 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: Chocolate Buddha Happy Hour party with Ron Paskley, 6 pm, FREE and Mixtape Sessions with The Alchemist, 9 pm, FREE.

The Hook

118 Commerce St., at Columbia Street in Red Hook, (718) 797-3007, www.thehookmusic.com
Nov. 28: Sam Krings, Amun Ra, 8:30 pm, \$7.

Jazz Spot Cafe

179 Marqua Gurney Blvd. at Kosciuszko Street in Bedford Stuyvesant, (718) 453-7825, www.the-jazz-box.com
Mondays: Jam session, 8 pm, \$5; Nov. 28: Eugene Jackson, Siciliano, Kim Clarke, 9 pm, \$15; Nov. 29: Rob Schless, Ronnie Burrage, Kim Clarke, 9 pm, \$15.

JRG Fashion Cafe

177 Flatbush Ave., at Atlantic Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 399-7079, www.jrgentertainment.com
Sundays: Live with DJ Gitter, 8 pm, FREE; Fridays: Damage Band, 9 pm, FREE; Saturdays: International Night, 9 pm, FREE; Sundays: The Damage Band, 8 pm, FREE; Mondays: Russ Murrell & the Trio, 8 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: DJ's spin, 7 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Kreli Carr, 8 pm, FREE.

Kiki Bar-Cafe

811 1st St., at State Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 855-5574
Tuesdays: Soul acoustic jam, 8 pm, FREE.

Lamour

1546 63rd St., at 15th Avenue in Borough Park, (718) 837-6506, www.lamours.com
Nov. 28: Dorcas, Sand 72, Kinetic, Therman, 8 pm, \$TBA; Nov. 29: Blue Rose Lab, Black Moon Kring, Moon dragonfly, Cobalt, and others, 1:30 pm, \$TBA; Dec. 5: Full Brown Chica, Through the Discipline, Just One Chance, Jaxon, Desolate, and others, 7:30 pm, \$TBA.

TALK TO US...

To list your events in Brooklyn Nightlife, please give us as much notice as possible. Include name of venue, address with cross street, phone number for the public to call, Web site URL, dates, times and admission or ticket prices. Send listings and color photos of performers via e-mail to advertising@brooklynpapers.com or via fax at (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

Lillie's

46 1st St., at Driggs Street in Red Hook, (718) 858-8822
Tuesdays: Turntable Tuesdays with Gallagher, 9 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Sunny's Social Club, open mic, 9 pm, FREE.

Low Bar

Below Rice restaurant, 81 Washington St. at Front Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-1100, www.belowrice.com
Nov. 28: "The Love Below" old school hip-hop, funk and R&B, 9 pm, FREE; Nov. 29: Sam Bano, 9 pm, FREE; Matt Charles and the Valentines, 10 pm, FREE; Nov. 30: DJ Jonathan Jacobs spins 1950s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 100s, 110s, 120s, 130s, 140s, 150s, 160s, 170s, 180s, 190s, 200s, 210s, 220s, 230s, 240s, 250s, 260s, 270s, 280s, 290s, 300s, 310s, 320s, 330s, 340s, 350s, 360s, 370s, 380s, 390s, 400s, 410s, 420s, 430s, 440s, 450s, 460s, 470s, 480s, 490s, 500s, 510s, 520s, 530s, 540s, 550s, 560s, 570s, 580s, 590s, 600s, 610s, 620s, 630s, 640s, 650s, 660s, 670s, 680s, 690s, 700s, 710s, 720s, 730s, 740s, 750s, 760s, 770s, 780s, 790s, 800s, 810s, 820s, 830s, 840s, 850s, 860s, 870s, 880s, 890s, 900s, 910s, 920s, 930s, 940s, 950s, 960s, 970s, 980s, 990s, 1000s, 1010s, 1020s, 1030s, 1040s, 1050s, 1060s, 1070s, 1080s, 1090s, 1100s, 1110s, 1120s, 1130s, 1140s, 1150s, 1160s, 1170s, 1180s, 1190s, 1200s, 1210s, 1220s, 1230s, 1240s, 1250s, 1260s, 1270s, 1280s, 1290s, 1300s, 1310s, 1320s, 1330s, 1340s, 1350s, 1360s, 1370s, 1380s, 1390s, 1400s, 1410s, 1420s, 1430s, 1440s, 1450s, 1460s, 1470s, 1480s, 1490s, 1500s, 1510s, 1520s, 1530s, 1540s, 1550s, 1560s, 1570s, 1580s, 1590s, 1600s, 1610s, 1620s, 1630s, 1640s, 1650s, 1660s, 1670s, 1680s, 1690s, 1700s, 1710s, 1720s, 1730s, 1740s, 1750s, 1760s, 1770s, 1780s, 1790s, 1800s, 1810s, 1820s, 1830s, 1840s, 1850s, 1860s, 1870s, 1880s, 1890s, 1900s, 1910s, 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, 2010s, 2020s, 2030s, 2040s, 2050s, 2060s, 2070s, 2080s, 2090s, 2100s, 2110s, 2120s, 2130s, 2140s, 2150s, 2160s, 2170s, 2180s, 2190s, 2200s, 2210s, 2220s, 2230s, 2240s, 2250s, 2260s, 2270s, 2280s, 2290s, 2300s, 2310s, 2320s, 2330s, 2340s, 2350s, 2360s, 2370s, 2380s, 2390s, 2400s, 2410s, 2420s, 2430s, 2440s, 2450s, 2460s, 2470s, 2480s, 2490s, 2500s, 2510s, 2520s, 2530s, 2540s, 2550s, 2560s, 2570s, 2580s, 2590s, 2600s, 2610s, 2620s, 2630s, 2640s, 2650s, 2660s, 2670s, 2680s, 2690s, 2700s, 2710s, 2720s, 2730s, 2740s, 2750s, 2760s, 2770s, 2780s, 2790s, 2800s, 2810s, 2820s, 2830s, 2840s, 2850s, 2860s, 2870s, 2880s, 2890s, 2900s, 2910s, 2920s, 2930s, 2940s, 2950s, 2960s, 2970s, 2980s, 2990s, 3000s, 3010s, 3020s, 3030s, 3040s, 3050s, 3060s, 3070s, 3080s, 3090s, 3100s, 3110s, 3120s, 3130s, 3140s, 3150s, 3160s, 3170s, 3180s, 3190s, 3200s, 3210s, 3220s, 3230s, 3240s, 3250s, 3260s, 3270s, 3280s, 3290s, 3300s, 3310s, 3320s, 3330s, 3340s, 3350s, 3360s, 3370s, 3380s, 3390s, 3400s, 3410s, 3420s, 3430s, 3440s, 3450s, 3460s, 3470s, 3480s, 3490s, 3500s, 3510s, 3520s, 3530s, 3540s, 3550s, 3560s, 3570s, 3580s, 3590s, 3600s, 3610s, 3620s, 3630s, 3640s, 3650s, 3660s, 3670s, 3680s, 3690s, 3700s, 3710s, 3720s, 3730s, 3740s, 3750s, 3760s, 3770s, 3780s, 3790s, 3800s, 3810s, 3820s, 3830s, 3840s, 3850s, 3860s, 3870s, 3880s, 3890s, 3900s, 3910s, 3920s, 3930s, 3940s, 3950s, 3960s, 3970s, 3980s, 3990s, 4000s, 4010s, 4020s, 4030s, 4040s, 4050s, 4060s, 4070s, 4080s, 4090s, 4100s, 4110s, 4120s, 4130s, 4140s, 4150s, 4160s, 4170s, 4180s, 4190s, 4200s, 4210s, 4220s, 4230s, 4240s, 4250s, 4260s, 4270s, 4280s, 4290s, 4300s, 4310s, 4320s, 4330s, 4340s, 4350s, 4360s, 4370s, 4380s, 4390s, 4400s, 4410s, 4420s, 4430s, 4440s, 4450s, 4460s, 4470s, 4480s, 4490s, 4500s, 4510s, 4520s, 4530s, 4540s, 4550s, 4560s, 4570s, 4580s, 4590s, 4600s, 4610s, 4620s, 4630s, 4640s, 4650s, 4660s, 4670s, 4680s, 4690s, 4700s, 4710s, 4720s, 4730s, 4740s, 4750s, 4760s, 4770s, 4780s, 4790s, 4800s, 4810s, 4820s, 4830s, 4840s, 4850s, 4860s, 4870s, 4880s, 4890s, 4900s, 4910s, 4920s, 4930s, 4940s, 4950

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THE BROOKLYN PAPERS



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Dec. 1, 2003

Size matters

Mabou Mines reconstructs Henrik Ibsen's 'A Doll's House' with unusual proportions

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

In his time, Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen was considered something of a maverick. In fact, Ibsen, who moved from romanticism to naturalism in theater, is generally acknowledged as the founder of modern drama. Today his work has become part of the canon of dramatic literature.

Mabou Mines, a company noted for its deconstruction of the classics like the gender-reversed "King Lear," has taken Ibsen's "A Doll's House" and turned its weighty themes of confining marriages and the emancipation of women into the stuff of comedy and satire.

Lee Breuer, who adapted and directs Mabou Mines' "Dollhouse" (at St. Ann's Warehouse in DUMBO until Dec. 7), has created a production that satirizes and titillates. It is arresting both visually (Narelle Sissone has designed a dollhouse set complete with miniature furniture, piano and tea set) and aurally (Ning Yu accompanies each scene with Eve Beglarian's Edward Grieg-inspired music, much like in the days of silent film).

But what really sets this production apart is Breuer's use of scale to mock traditional ideals of power. The male parts are all played by actors whose heights range from 3-foot-4 to 4-foot-5, while the women are all extremely tall. The excellent Honora Ferguson, who plays Nora's maid, Kristine, is 6 feet tall.

Much of the time the women are on their knees or backside so they can meet the men eye-to-eye. When they are annoyed or amorous they even pick up



Short story: Director Lee Breuer's creative casting gives Henrik Ibsen's play a whole new look at St. Ann's Warehouse in DUMBO.

the little guys and deposit them at a different spot on the stage.

The men make up in bravado what they lack in stature. While the women caper about in crinolines and bustles, the men are stately and imposing in long coats, stiff collars and lavish

and Ricardo Gil as the lovelick Dr. Rank. But it is Maude Mitchell as the petted and protected Nora who steals the show.

With her squeaky voice and mincing steps, Mitchell is every inch the "doll" in Ibsen's drama. Yet she is also clever and determined — a bit like Lucy trying to trick Ricky with one of her harebrained schemes in an "I Love Lucy" episode. And she's just as funny.

Beneath all the glitter, however, this production follows Ibsen's original drama rather faithfully. Nora has forged documents to get money necessary to save Torvald's life. Krogstad is in possession of those documents and threatens to expose Nora unless she convinces her husband not to fire him for (or all things) forgery.

In the meantime, Nora's old friend Kristine, who was at one time in love with and loved by Krogstad and is now a widow, appears just as Nora is prepar-

ing for Christmas. She asks Nora to persuade Torvald, who was just promoted to bank manager, to give her a job at his bank. And Dr. Rank, who believes he is dying of some unspecified disease, declares his love (or passion) for Nora.

In many ways, Mabou Mines' "Dollhouse" unfolds more like a dance than a straight drama. Indeed the choreography (created by Martha Clarke, Eamonn Farrell, Clove Galilee, Erik Liberman, Jane Catherine Shaw and Norman Snow) is essential in giving the play its humor, its satire, its excess and its passion.

It's hard to imagine what Ibsen, who lived an austere and mostly joyless life, would have made of Breuer's recasting of his highly moral and psychological ponderings on humanity. One can only hope that he would recognize in Breuer a kindred spirit, fully in tune with his rebellious, trail-blazing nature.

THEATER

"Mabou Mines Dollhouse" plays through Dec. 7, Tuesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 pm, and Sundays at 4 pm, at St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO). Tickets are \$22-\$50. For tickets, call (718) 254-8779. For more information, visit www.stannwarehouse.org.

capas. Meganne George's costumes are nothing less than exquisite.

Mabou Mines' "Dollhouse" abounds with extraordinary acting — Mark Povinelli as Nora's overbearing husband, Torvald; Kristopher Medina as the vindictive Nils Krogstad;

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